

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 271453Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3243

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3638

MADRID ALSO FOR AMB CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ROUNDUP

REFS: (A) LISBON 3116

(B) LISBON 3140

(C) LISBON 3210

(D) LISBON 3393

SUMMARY: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (CA) ADJOURNED JUNE 24 AFTER AGREEING UPON PERMANENT RULES. CA WILL RECONVENE JULY 4 TO BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF PARTY PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTION. WORK HAS PROCEEDED WITH FEW HITCHES SO FAR. JUNE 21 REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL STATEMENT DELINEATING CA ROLE HAS HAD SOBERING EFFECT. SOCIALISTS' INITIAL RESPONSE (A REAFFIRMATION OF CA RIGHT TO

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REQUEST OFFICIAL MATERIALS RELATED TO WORK OF ASSEMBLY) HAS

BEEN CAUTIOUS BUT ASSERTIVE. FURTHER TESTS OF WILL IN CA
BETWEEN SOCIALIST-LED MODERATES AND AFM ARE LIKELY. END SUMMARY.

1. CA ADJOURNED JUNE 24 AFTER AGREEING ON PERMANENT RULES
TO GOVERN FURTHER DELIBERATIONS. CA ALSO AGREED TO ESTABLISH
THIRTEEN-MEMBER COMMISSION WHICH WILL EXAMINE PROPOSALS FOR
CONSTITUTION AND REPORT TO FULL ASSEMBLY WHEN IT RECONVENES
JULY 4. DEBATE EXPECTED TO BEGIN JULY 8. COMPOSITION OF
COMMISSION REFLECTS PARTY STRENGTH IN CA (PS FOUR; PPD THREE;
PCP TWO; MDP/CDE ONE; CDS ONE; MACAU ONE). SINGLE UDP DEPUTY,
AMERICO DUARTE, CONTINUES HIS REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN
ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES. ALL FIVE PARTIES REPRESENTED ON
COMMISSION HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL SUBMIT FORMAL
PROPOSALS FOR TEXT BY JULY 1 DEADLINE.

2. FIRST INDICATIONS OF HOW SOCIALISTS (PS) AND OTHER
MODERATES IN CA WILL RESPOND TO JUNE 21 REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
DECLARATION CAME ON JUNE 24. PS SPOKESMAN MARCELO CURTO, TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF TIME SET ASIDE EACH SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF
MATTERS OF NATIONAL CONCERN, NOTED SIMILARITY OF RC POSITION
RE CA WITH PS OWN. BUT SOCIALISTS ARE NOT ABOUT TO ROLL
OVER AND PLAY DEAD. PS INITIAL RESPONSE HAS BEEN CAUTIOUS BUT
STILL ASSERTIVE. DESPITE RC EFFORTS TO TURN IT OFF, ASSEMBLY
IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE FURTHER CLASHES BETWEEN PS AND ARMED FORCES
MOVEMENT. NEXT TEST MAY WELL COME ON PROCEDURAL ISSUE RATHER
THAN ON SUBSTANCE OF CONSTITUTION. PERMANENT RULES APPROVED
BY CA JUNE 24 -- INCLUDING PROVISION SETTING ASIDE TIME FOR DIS-
CUSSION OF MATTERS OF NATIONAL CONCERN -- MUST STILL BE REVIEWED
BY RC BEFORE BEING PROMULGATED BY PRESIDENT.
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